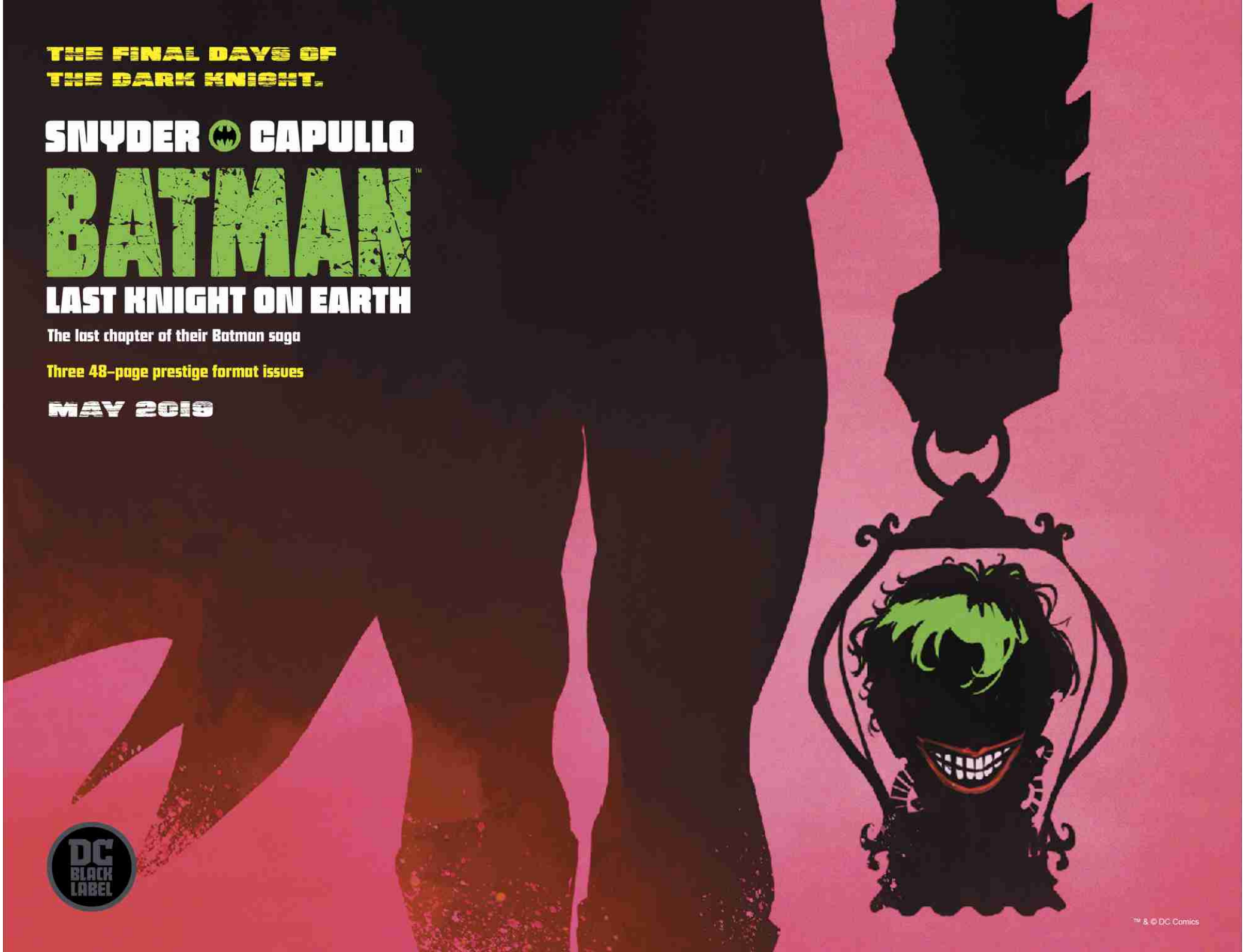
DC UNIVERSE
70
RATED T TEEN
DCCOMICS.COM
CHAPTER 1
YEAR ONE
The FLASH
HIS ORIGIN STARTS HERE!
WILLIAMSON
PORTER
HI-FI


THE FINAL DAYS OF
THE DARK KNIGHT.
SNYDER CAPULLO
BATMAN
LAST KNIGHT ON EARTH
The last chapter of their Batman saga
Three 48-page prestige format issues
MAY 2018
DC BLACK LABEL
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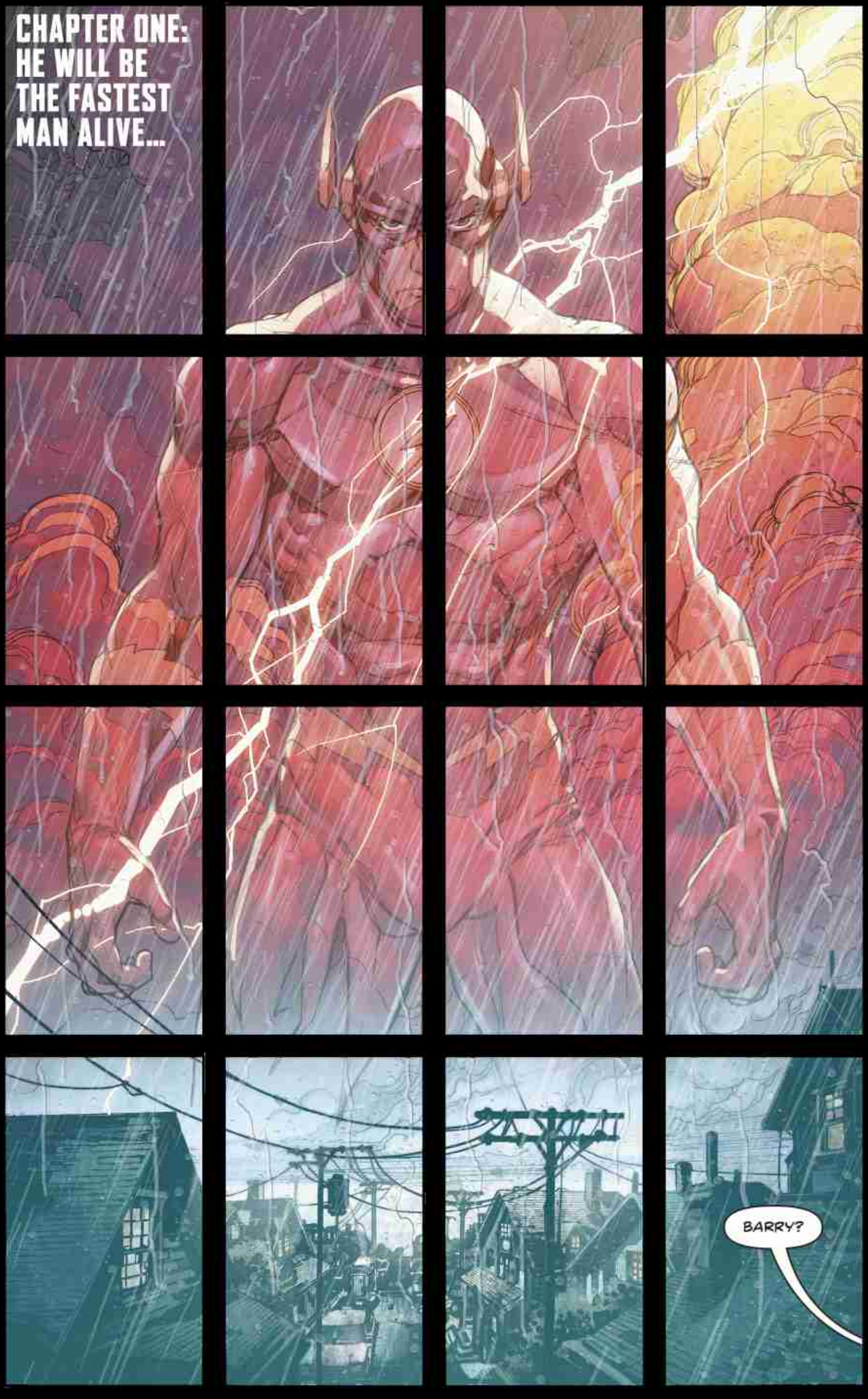
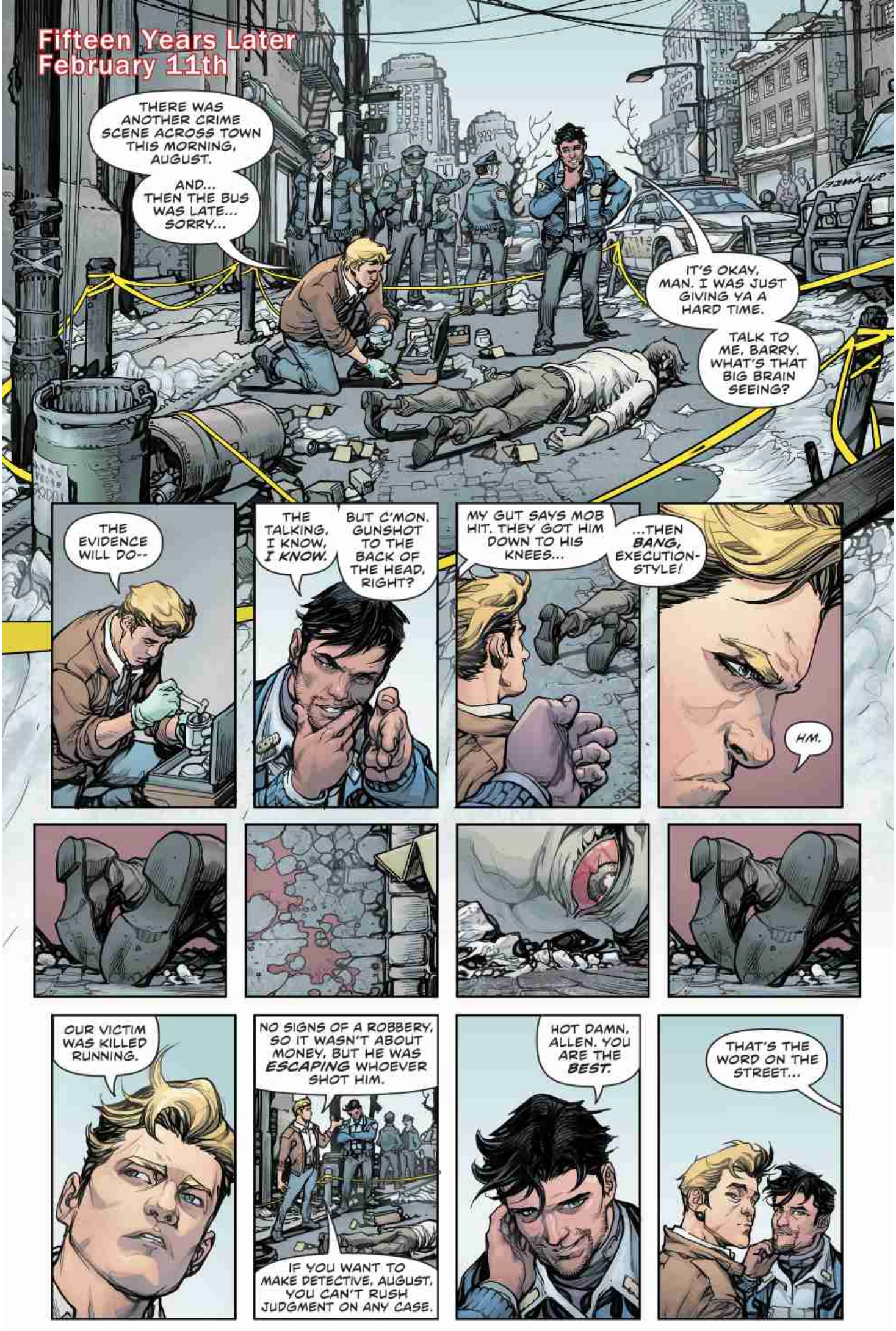

CHAPTER ONE:
HE WILL BE
THE FASTEST
MAN ALIVE...
BARRY?

BARTHOLOMEW HENRY ALLEN, WHERE DID YOU RUN OFF TO?
I'M IN THE ATTIC, MOM!
LOOKS LIKE WE'RE LIVING WITH THIS BLACKOUT FOR THE NIGHT...
WHAT'RE YOU DOING UP HERE?
I WAS JUST LOOKING AT YOUR COMIC BOOKS...
...THE SUPERHERO ONES.
IT'S GETTING BAD OUT THERE.
WHAT'S GOT YOU READING MY OLD COMICS AGAIN?
I DON'T KNOW. THE CLASSIC HEROES WERE SO COOL.
GOOD BEATING EVIL AND ALL THAT.
BARRY... WHAT...WHAT'S ON YOUR FACE?
NOTHING...

...I'LL BE OKAY.
BARRY...YOU SHOULD'VE COME TO YOUR FATHER AND ME IF YOU'RE BEING PICKED ON.
THEY WEREN'T COMING FOR *ME*, THEY WERE BULLYING SOME OTHER KIDS.
I COULDN'T JUST STAND THERE AND DO *NOTHING*, RIGHT? BAD THINGS MIGHT COME OF IT IN THE FUTURE, BUT I KNOW...
...MY HEROES WOULD NEVER LET SOMETHING LIKE THIS GET THEM DOWN.
THAT'S MY BARRY.
ALWAYS HOPEFUL.
WHATEVER HAPPENS IN THIS LIFE...
KRAKAKAKA
...NEVER LOSE THAT, PLEASE?
"YOU'RE LATE, ALLEN."


Fifteen Years Later
February 11th
THERE WAS ANOTHER CRIME SCENE ACROSS TOWN THIS MORNING, AUGUST.
AND... THEN THE BUS WAS LATE... SORRY...
IT'S OKAY, MAN. I WAS JUST GIVING YA A HARD TIME.
TALK TO ME, BARRY. WHAT'S THAT BIG BRAIN SEEING?
THE EVIDENCE WILL DO--
THE TALKING, I KNOW, I KNOW.
BUT C'MON. GUNSHOT TO THE BACK OF THE HEAD, RIGHT?
MY GUT SAYS MOB HIT. THEY GOT HIM DOWN TO HIS KNEES...
...THEN BANG, EXECUTION-STYLE!
HM.
OUR VICTIM WAS KILLED RUNNING.
NO SIGNS OF A ROBBERY, SO IT WASN'T ABOUT MONEY, BUT HE WAS ESCAPING WHOEVER SHOT HIM.
IF YOU WANT TO MAKE DETECTIVE, AUGUST, YOU CAN'T RUSH JUDGMENT ON ANY CASE.
HOT DAMN, ALLEN. YOU ARE THE BEST.
THAT'S THE WORD ON THE STREET...

Central City Citizen
MARDON FAMILY UNDER INVESTIGATION FOR CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES
ARSON
GETS NEW EXOTIC GORILLA
...BUT BARRY ALLEN NEVER GIVES ME THE TIME OF DAY.
IF IT ISN'T IRIS WEST.
I SEE YOU SO OFTEN AT CRIME SCENES, I THINK YOU MIGHT BE A SERIAL KILLER.
YOU TWO KNOW EACH OTHER?
UH, I...
I'M ALWAYS CHASING A STORY, AUGUST.
AND CENTRAL CITY'S FAVORITE CSI IS 100 PERCENT A STORY. EVERY TIME I TRY TO INTERVIEW MR. ALLEN HE DODGES ME.
BECAUSE YOU ALWAYS FISH FOR INFO ON A--
OH, BARRY'S JUST SHY.
DEEP INSIDE YOU, BARRY, IS A HEADLINE WAITING TO ERUPT. I KNOW IT.
UH...
RELAX, DUTY CALLS ELSEWHERE IN THE BIG, BAD CITY THIS MORNING.
BUT THE NEXT TIME I TEXT, YOU BETTER ANSWER!
DUDE...MEET UP WITH HER. TONIGHT.
THE WEATHER WILL BE GREAT. CLEAR SKIES AND OPEN HEARTS?
IT WOULDN'T GO ANYWHERE, AUGUST. AND I HAVE TOO MUCH WORK TO DO IN THE LAB TO WORRY ABOUT DATES...

AUGUST WAS WRONG. NO MATTER HOW NICE THE DAY IS...
...I CAN ALWAYS SEE WHEN A STORM'S COMING.

EVERY DAY I STARE DOWN AT CRIME SCENES.

AND I'M REMINDED OF THE HORROR...

...THIS LIFE IS CAPABLE OF.

AND BECAUSE OF THE CRIME IN CENTRAL CITY...

...IT'S NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE TO LOOK FORWARD TO THE FUTURE...

...AND SEE ANYTHING POSITIVE.

OH, I'M SO SORRY.

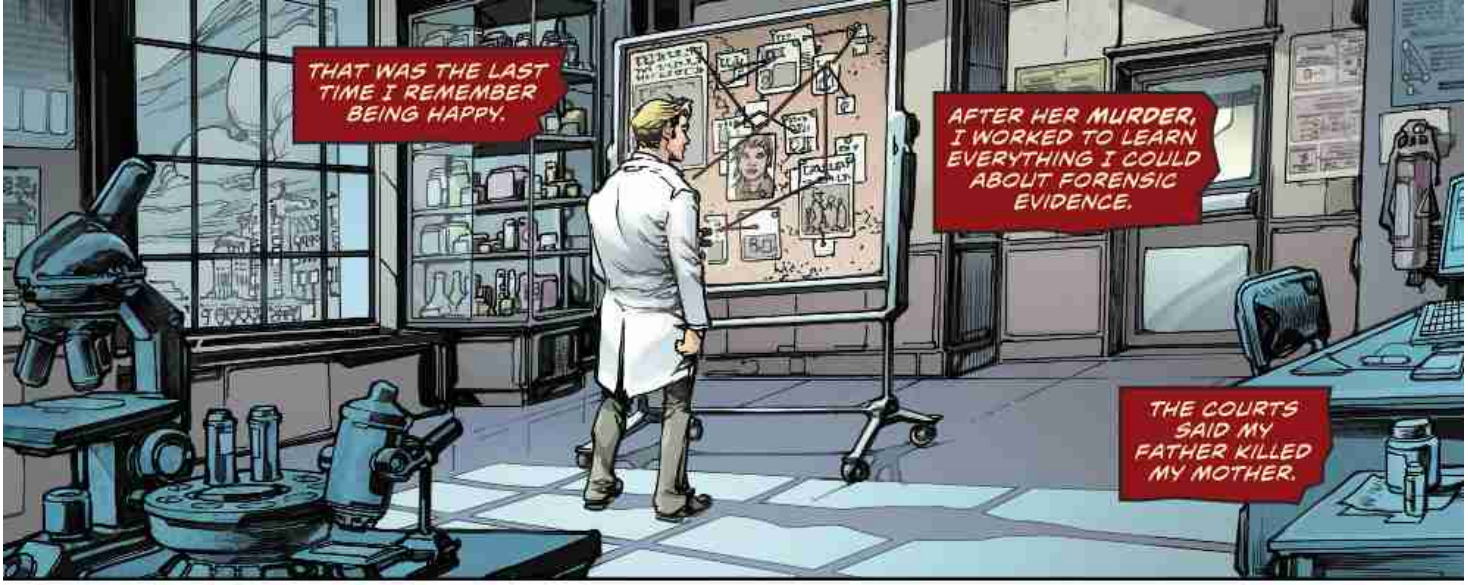
DON'T WORRY. MISTAKES HAPPEN...

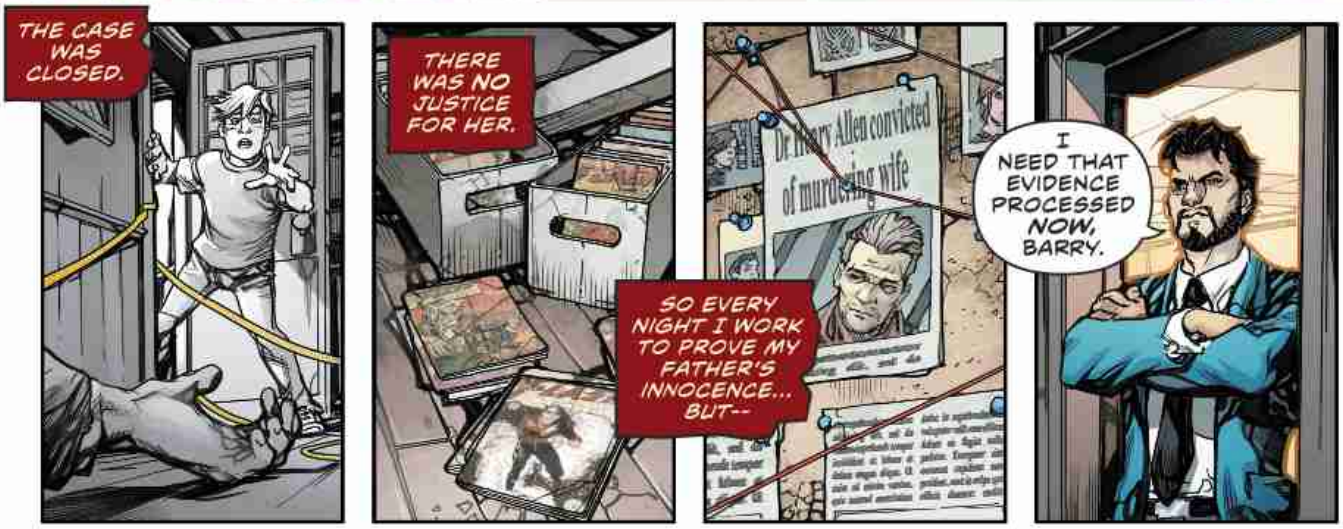
AH, DAD! IT'S RAINING!

WE SHOULDN'T BE OUT ON THE STREETS AFTER DARK ANYWAY. BUT Y'KNOW WHAT...?

...THE SUN WILL COME OUT TOMORROW.
I WISH I SHARED THAT FATHER'S SENSE OF OPTIMISM. IT'S GOOD THAT HE CAN KEEP HOPE ALIVE FOR HIS FAMILY...

NIGHTS LIKE THIS REMIND ME OF MY MOM AND ME READING COMICS IN THE ATTIC...


THAT WAS THE LAST TIME I REMEMBER BEING HAPPY.
AFTER HER MURDER, I WORKED TO LEARN EVERYTHING I COULD ABOUT FORENSIC EVIDENCE.
THE COURTS SAID MY FATHER KILLED MY MOTHER.


THE CASE WAS CLOSED.
THERE WAS NO JUSTICE FOR HER.
SO EVERY NIGHT I WORK TO PROVE MY FATHER'S INNOCENCE... BUT--
I NEED THAT EVIDENCE PROCESSED NOW, BARRY.

THEN...
I KNOW WHAT I SAID ABOUT TONIGHT, BUT I NEED HELP WITH MY BROTHER'S CASE...
IT'S GOING TO BE A LONG NIGHT.
HM.
PING
IRIS...WHY IS SOMEONE LIKE HER INTERESTED IN SOMEONE LIKE ME?
Midnight snack?

IRIS...
IRIS.

"THAT'S MY BARRY."

"I'M SORRY, SON."

"HOPEFUL."

"YOUR MOTHER'S GONE."

"NEVER LOSE THAT..."

Central C

Central City CSI struck by lightning still in coma

y Iris West

"I MURDERED YOUR MOTHER, BARRY."

"...PLEASE?"

"SHE'S"

"HOPEFUL"

"GONE"

"PLEASE"

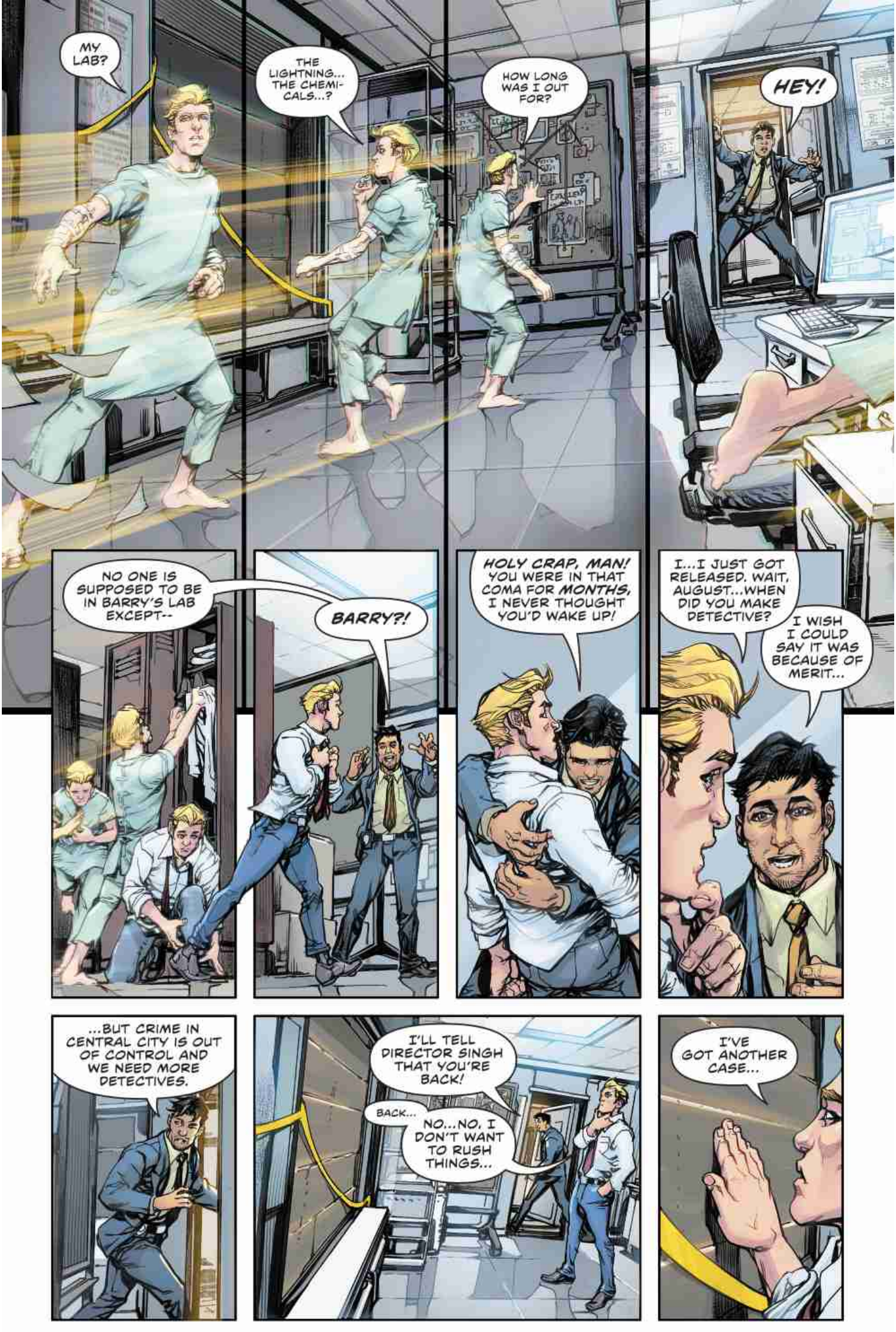
"MURDERED"

June 15th
NO!

NGH...SORE ALL OVER...
...THE HOSPITAL...?

AH!

WHAT THE WHAT?
HOW DID I--?! I... I...
I JUST
WANT
TO
GO
HOME?
WHAT IS
CENTRAL CITY POLICE
HAPPENING TO ME?!
CENTRAL CITY PD?


MY LAB?
THE LIGHTNING... THE CHEMICALS...?
HOW LONG WAS I OUT FOR?
HEY!
NO ONE IS SUPPOSED TO BE IN BARRY'S LAB EXCEPT--
BARRY?!
HOLY CRAP, MAN! YOU WERE IN THAT COMA FOR MONTHS, I NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D WAKE UP!
I...I JUST GOT RELEASED. WAIT, AUGUST...WHEN DID YOU MAKE DETECTIVE?
I WISH I COULD SAY IT WAS BECAUSE OF MERIT...
...BUT CRIME IN CENTRAL CITY IS OUT OF CONTROL AND WE NEED MORE DETECTIVES.
I'LL TELL DIRECTOR SINGH THAT YOU'RE BACK!
BACK...
NO...NO, I DON'T WANT TO RUSH THINGS...
I'VE GOT ANOTHER CASE...

June 16th
MY BODY IS THE CRIME SCENE. EXAMINE THE EVIDENCE.
BLOOD WORK APPEARS NORMAL AT FIRST LOOK...
...BUT MY MOLECULES HAVE BEEN ENERGIZED.
CALORIE INTAKE IS HIGH.
PROBABLY BECAUSE MY INCREASED METABOLISM BURNS THEM UP.
NO ONE ALIVE SHOULD MOVE THIS FAST.
WOW.
GAH!
FFFFFFFF
HUF HUF HUF HUF HUF
I NEED TO START SLOW.

IF I VIBRATE MY MOLECULES AT THE RIGHT FREQUENCY THEY GO OUT OF PHASE, BUT...
BOOM
IT'S DANGEROUS. THESE POWERS...
...COULD THEY HURT ME? OTHERS?
flip flip flip flip flip
BARRY ALLEN. SMARTEST MAN ALIVE.
ORRRR... NOT.
It's dangerous. These powers...could they hurt me? others?
My brain loses the information just as fast as I read it.
I'M NOT FREAKING OUT.
THAT'S NOT WEIRD AT ALL.
TOTALLY NORMAL.
It's dangerous. Thes
powers...could they
hurt me? Others?
My brain loses the
information just as
fast as I read it.
Laws of physics st
apply. Powers ap
science-based.
HM.
THIS WOULD BE COOLER IF I HAD A DRIVER'S LICENSE.
RUNNING?

I'VE NEVER BEEN MUCH OF A RUNNER.
BUT MY MOM ALWAYS TOLD ME...
...TRY AND TRY AGAIN.
WHEN I FIRST RAN WITH THE POWERS, I WAS ABLE TO STOP.
BUT NOW...
...NOT SO MUCH.
I'M HOLDING BACK. AFRAID AND...
I NEED BETTER SHOES.
WAYNETECH DONATED FIREPROOF JACKETS TO THE CENTRAL CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT.
August 28th
How to stop?
Friction shield?
Need something to cover ears so I can hear over the wind.
Top speed?
SIGH... OKAY...LET'S GO.

HITTING 100 MILES PER HOUR EASY.
200.
FEELS GOOD TO JUST CUT LOOSE.
LEAVE MY TROUBLES, CRIME SCENES, EXPERIMENTS BEHIND ME FOR ONCE.

FOR SO LONG I'VE LET MY PAST HOLD ME BACK. AFRAID OF WHAT COULD BE AHEAD OF ME.
BUT NOW...I FORGET THE SCIENCE AND...

...I JUST RUN.
AND Y'KNOW WHAT? THIS...

...THIS IS FUN!

KRAKAKABOOM
AHHH!
NONONONO NO SLOWDOWN SLOWDOWN--
SLOW...
≥UFF!≤
...DOWN.
WHAT DID I--
HURRY UP!

KING TURTLE DOESN'T LIKE TO WAIT!
THIS IS...
Central City
Flash loses Central City!
...THE FUTURE?
THIS IS A NIGHTMARE.
YOU.
WHAT'RE YOU DOING OUT OF YOUR SHELL?
I DON'T... I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.
DON'T WORRY. WE'LL TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOU.
DAMMIT, BARRY!
WHOOOSHH
YOU SHOULDN'T BE HERE!

END CHAPTER ONE YEAR ONE

JOSHUA WILLIAMSON & HOWARD PORTER STORYTELLERS
HI-FI COLORIST PORTER & HI-FI COVER TONI INFANTE VARIANT COVER
ANDREW MARINO ASSOCIATE EDITOR PAUL KAMINSKI EDITOR
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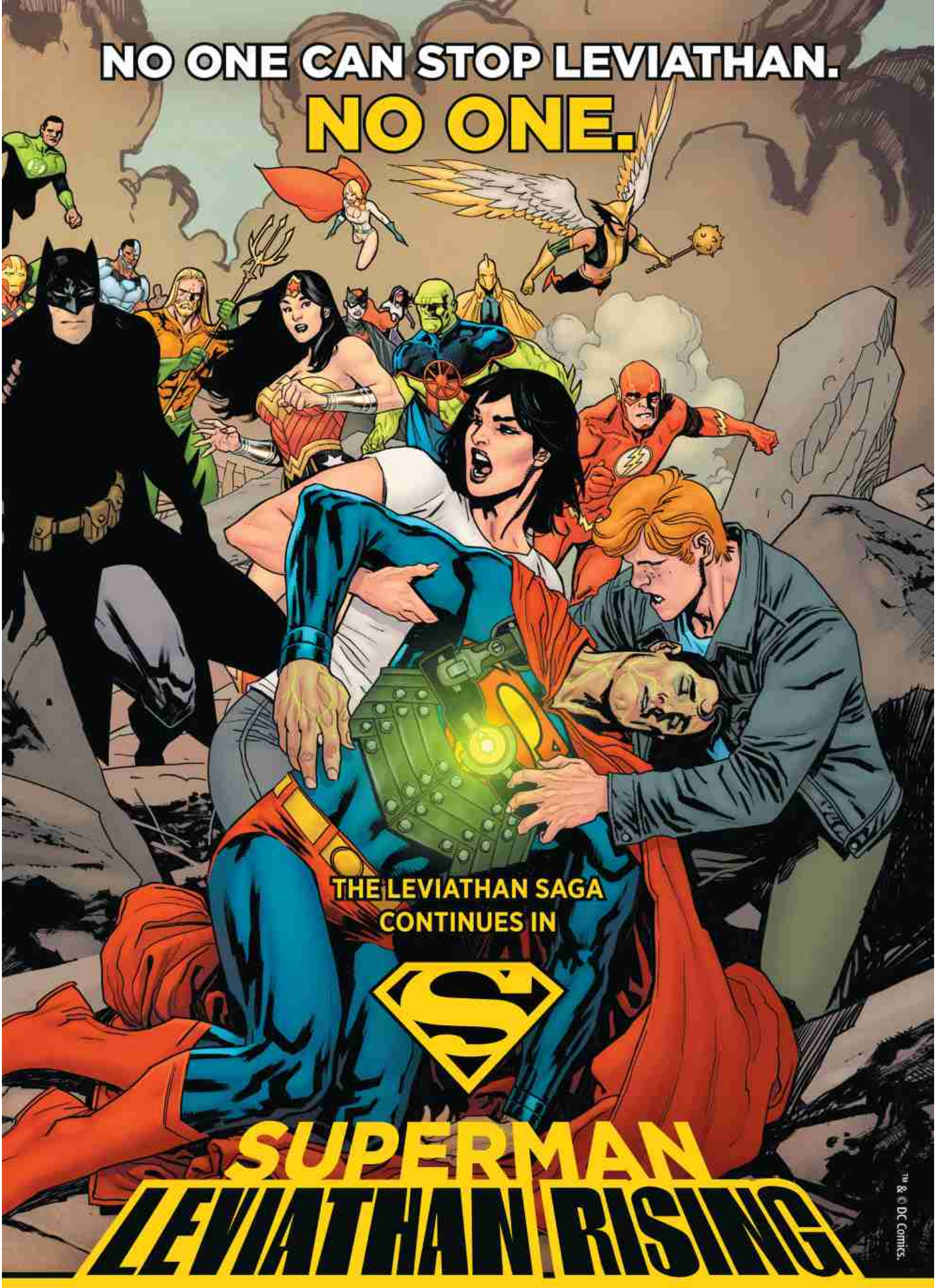
NEXT: THE MAN WHO BROKE THE TIME BARRIER!



AN 80-PAGE OVERSIZE SPECIAL

WRITTEN BY **BRIAN MICHAEL BENDIS**
MATT FRACTION • GREG RUCKA • MARC ANDREYKO
ART BY **YANICK PAQUETTE • STEVE LIEBER • MIKE PERKINS**

DC

MAY

EVENT LEVIATHAN

A DC NATION INTERVIEW WITH WRITER BRIAN MICHAEL BENDIS

What can you tell us about the story?
In the pages of ACTION COMICS, someone named Leviathan has single-handedly destroyed all of the secret organizations that make up the backbone of the DC Universe–A.R.G.U.S., the DEO and Spyral. Everything is in chaos and nobody knows who has done this or how they have accumulated the power and resources to accomplish it.

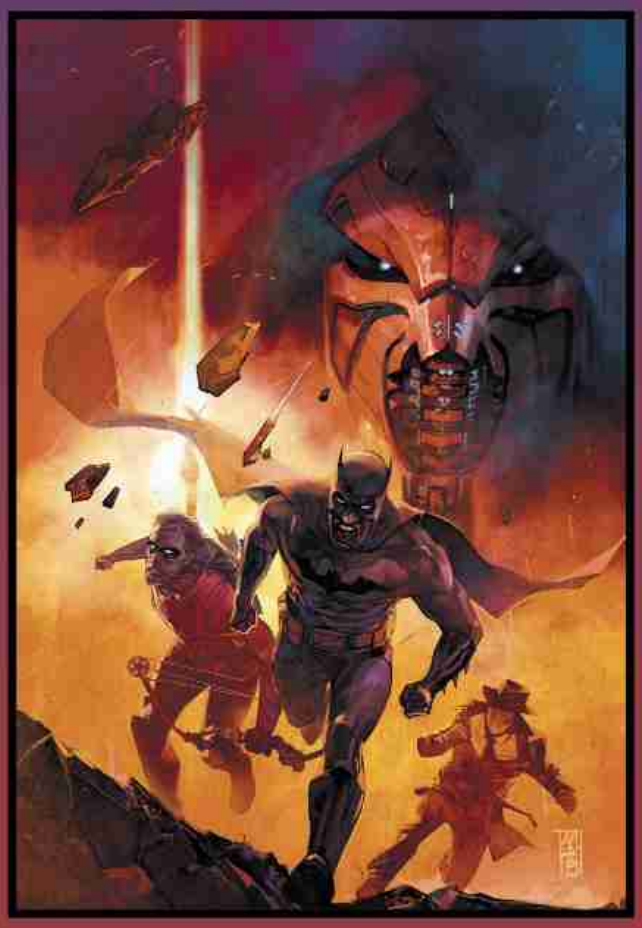
Now, the greatest detectives in the world, including Batman, the Question, Green Arrow, Plastic Man and Lois Lane must come together to solve the mystery of who Leviathan is.

Major organizations and tentpoles of society have fallen and if these heroes can't figure out who did it and why there may not be a tomorrow that resembles the world they have today.

What's it like working with Alex Maleev again?
I love collaborating with Alex. We have made our best books together. From his earliest work on *Daredevil* all the way to our run on SCARLET for DC this year, Alex just brings out something in me that inspires me. This storyline was created specifically for him based on what I knew he wanted to do in the DC Universe.

How does this tie into the current DC Universe?
When the story line is over, major parts of the DC Universe will not be the same. There will be survivors and they will have a very specific agenda. Very big pieces are being blown up and new big pieces are being put in their place.

Why should fans check this out?
There are a lot of fans who want to hear that something is really going to happen. This is one time it will. This is the rise of a giant new villain/antagonist in the DC Universe. When people find



out who it is and why they are doing what they are doing, they might find themselves deeply challenged.

Leviathan is selling a new world order that is something a lot of people can get behind. It's how this person is doing it that individuals will have a problem with.

What do first-time readers need to know before picking this up?
This is a big mystery thriller. A whodunit! It's a rarity in mainstream comics and that's what we love about it. It's a front row seat to very new things in the DCU.

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